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SNOWED IN



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Oxford closures continue

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Winter storms and freezing temperatures are predicted in Oxford for the rest of the week, and the University of Mississippi’s Oxford campus has announced that it will be closed through the end of the week.

The Daily Mississippian has compiled a list of stores on and off campus that are open and will continue to update hours of operation through the end of the week.

SEE CLOSURE PAGE 2



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The winter storm that began on Feb. 14 brought several inches of snow and ice to Oxford, leading to campus closures. Students on campus used the time off from class to enjoy the winter weather, congregating in the Grove and pioneering never-before-seen methods for sledding and “skiing” through the icy landscape.

Students storm stadium

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Hundreds of students gathered in the Grove for a snowball fight on Monday afternoon that led to rushing Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and at least two charges of trespassing as winter weather shut down businesses, schools and roads.

A group message organized on Sunday afternoon via GroupMe called for members to “add anyone and everyone” for a snowball fight in the Grove at

SEE STORM PAGE 8



ASB ADVOCATES AGAINST STATE TRANSGENDER ATHLETE BAN

The state Senate voted last week to ban transgender athletes from competing on women’s sports teams. Now, UM’s students are urging the state House of Representatives to vote the bill down.

SEE PAGE 3



REBEL BASEBALL IS BACK

“With the strength of the bullpen and the incredible coaching staff, the Rebels will be able to go far in 2021,” writes sports columnist Ruby Draayer.

SEE PAGE 6

Double Decker celebration postponed for second year

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2021 will be the second year in a row that Oxford will not host its award-winning Double Decker Arts Festival.

Kinney Ferris, director of Visit Oxford, said Double Decker's 25th annual event is being postponed "yet again" due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival was originally postponed from April 2020 to August, and now, it is scheduled for the spring of 2021.

At the Board of Aldermen meeting on Tuesday, Ferris said this year's postponement is because of Gov. Tate Reeves's current executive order, which limits crowds from gathering.

"While we know that the current executive orders and restrictions from the governor will likely change between now and April 23, we did not think that there's going to be quite enough shift to host an event of the magnitude that Double Decker is safely in our community," Ferris said.

Mayor Robyn Tannehill said in an ASB town hall last week that she was hopeful Double Decker would happen in some capacity this spring since the average number of COVID-19 cases in Oxford is decreasing.

"My gut tells me that it's not going to be the Double Decker that we all know and love, but it's also not going to be nothing," Tannehill said. "So, hang with us. We're get-

ting there."

In Tuesday's Board of Aldermen meeting, Tannehill said there are small events related to Double Decker that will begin in April and continue through the next year, though no dates have been released yet. The city decided to postpone the event to next spring rather than this fall because it was difficult to find musicians who would commit to playing at the event during that time.

"I think there will be an event that is a more signature event in the fall, but we are just putting all those plans together right now," Tannehill said.

Visit Oxford said in a statement that although the office is disappointed Dou-



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss cheerleaders and Tony the Landshark ride to the Square on a double decker bus in 2018. The 25th annual Double Decker has been canceled due to coronavirus concerns for the third time since the beginning of the pandemic.

ble Decker won't happen in its traditional form in 2021, it is excited about the idea of people being able to gather to celebrate art and music at the pop-up events.

"With musicians not touring as normal, crowds not allowed to gather and the roll-

out of the vaccine still in the beginning phase, we felt that we could not deliver the experience that fans have grown accustomed to with Double Decker," the statement read. "We miss all of you and cannot wait for all of this to be over!"

ASB advocates against transgender athlete ban

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The Mississippi Senate voted to ban transgender athletes from competing on women's sports teams in the state on Feb. 11 during a late-night session. If passed by the state House of Representatives, the ban would be established by Senate Bill 2536, which passed through the Senate with little discussion and only nine votes not in favor of it last week.

Now, UM's Associated Student Body is urging the House to vote against the bill, and ASB president Joshua Mannery said he hopes other student governments in the state will do the same.

"To actively exclude transgender women from women's sports, you're cultivating this environment of hostility that will just continue to push violence and typecasting on that community," Mannery said. "We don't want to be a part of a system that actively makes our students feel unsafe and unwelcome."

Hours after the bill passed in the Senate, Mannery contacted the student body presidents of all seven other public institutions in the state asking them to utilize their "connections to the state legislature" to advocate against the bill. Mannery said the other student body presidents seem to be waiting to take action.

ASB released a statement on Monday, Feb. 15 condemning the bill, and the ASB Senate unanimously passed a resolution to oppose the ban



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

and compel the state House of Representatives to fail the bill.

"Our primary goal is to work within the confines of the UM Creed where it's clearly stated that the respect and dignity of each person shall be upheld," ASB Sen. Mason Greenwald said. "This ban is an encompassing umbrella ban on all trans people, and it frankly ignores many of the nuances of gender fluidity and transness."

Other ASB Senate members who spoke in the meeting also argued that the bill would further transphobic

sentiments and foster unwelcoming environments among sports teams in the state.

"It's one thing for students to feel that transgender athletes might possess an unfair advantage over them, but it's an entirely different matter for the Mississippi state legislature to completely ban transgender women from competing among the gender with which they identify," ASB Sen. Andy Flores said.

If passed, the bill could put University of Mississippi athletics teams in violation of NCAA policies on the inclusion of transgender athletes,

and in 2016 when North Carolina passed similar legislation, the NCAA responded by removing all championship events from the state.

In response to the reasoning that transgender women have an unfair competitive advantage on sports teams, the NCAA has said that the notion of an unfair advantage is based in "assumptions that are not well founded."

Nonetheless, no state legislators or members of student government have said they are aware of any transgender athletes currently competing in the state.

"I think sometimes people look at this kind of stuff, and they're like, 'Well, this isn't an active issue we're dealing with, so therefore it really shouldn't be at the forefront of what we need to take care of,'" ASB Senate president pro tempore Morgan Atkins said. "I think that the fact that this can happen and will happen at some point, and that there will be somebody who will be impacted by this, is reason enough to care."

At this time, at least 11 other states have attempted to pass similar legislation to ban the participation of transgender people in competitive sports, including Texas, Montana and North Dakota.

Meanwhile, state Sen. Angela Hill, the sponsor of the bill, said that she "had numerous coaches across the state call me and believe that they feel that there is a need for a policy," according to reporting from CNN.

Earlier this month, Gov. Tate Reeves also released a statement on Facebook against allowing transgender women to compete in athletics.

"I just don't understand why politicians are pushing children into transgenderism in the first place," he said. "And my heart breaks for the young women across America who will lose in this radical social experiment."

Reeves has not yet addressed Senate Bill 2536 directly, and it is still uncertain exactly when the state House of Representatives will vote on the bill.

Oxford approves projects

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The Board of Aldermen approved requests to activate the Thacker Road sidewalk project and the West Jackson Avenue pedestrian signal improvements project in its meeting on Tuesday night. The city will receive funds from the Mississippi Department of Transportation for the projects.

City engineer Reanna Mayoral said Oxford received two of three grants it has applied for from the Mississippi Department of Transportation through the Transportation Alternative award, the first of which will go toward the Thacker Road sidewalk project.

“We have been awarded up to \$750,000 for this project, which is huge,” Mayoral said. “Right now, the funds are set on an 80-20% match, which means we are going to get close



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Construction at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at the corner of E. Jackson Ave. and S. 9th St. The Board of Aldermen recently approved requests to activate the Thacker Road sidewalk project and the West Jackson Avenue pedestrian signal improvements project.

to a \$1 million job for less than \$200,000.”

Mayoral said the city has been hoping to begin the project for several years and is excited to have the funding to finally do so. The project will pave close to a mile of sidewalks on Thacker Heights Drive from the intersection at Garden Terrace Drive to the intersection at American Eagle Way.

“Thank you so much for this project,” Alderman Janice Antonow said. “The people in that area are thrilled that they’re going to have a way to walk to the park. It’s really something that’s

been needed.”

Antonow made a motion to approve the activation of the project which passed unanimously.

The board also approved activation for the West Jackson Avenue pedestrian signal improvements project for which the city will receive up to \$350,000 from the Transportation Alternative award. The project will upgrade pedestrian signals on Jackson Avenue from the intersection at Gertrude Ford Boulevard to the intersection at Rebel Drive.

CLOSURE continued from page 1

Grocery stores

-The Walmart on Jackson Avenue has not adjusted its hours for any of its services, and it will continue to stay open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, according to its website.

-The Kroger on University Avenue will close at 6 p.m., and the pharmacy will close at 5 p.m.

Restaurants and coffee shops off campus

Ajax Diner has not updated its Instagram since the restaurant closed on Feb. 17.

Cookout on Jackson Avenue remains open under normal operating hours from 10:30 a.m. to 3 a.m.

The Starbucks on Jackson Avenue remains open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. via drive-thru only.

The Chick Fil A on Jackson Avenue remains open under normal operating hours from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Garbage routes

According to the City of Oxford, garbage and rubbish routes will not run on Feb. 18 or 19.

Delivery services

-All restaurants are available for preorder for the next day on Fetch as of 4:30 p.m.

-All open restaurants are taking orders via Bitesquad as of 4:30

p.m. on Wednesday.

-DoorDash is providing pickup orders at locations that offer a pickup option.

-No delivery services are available through UberEats at this time.

Dining on campus

-As of Feb. 17, the only dining services that will be offered on campus will be at Rebel Market and the Towers Grille at Stockard Hall and Martin Hall, under limited hours.

-All dining options at the Student Union, the Pavilion and the library will remain closed.

Pharmacies

-The CVS Pharmacy on Jackson Avenue West will remain open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

-The Walgreens on University Avenue does not have an estimate for when it will reopen and will post updates on its store locator.

COVID-19 testing and vaccinations

Asymptomatic testing through the university has been cancelled for the rest of the week.

COVID-19 vaccinations scheduled on Thursday at the National Guard Armory will be rescheduled to a later date at the same time.

Transits

According to its Facebook page, the Oxford-University Transit will not run on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Students, faculty still struggle with Zoom etiquette

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It has been almost one year since the coronavirus pandemic forced UM classes to move to virtual learning, and Zoom meetings have become the norm for most of the university’s class instruction. However, there’s one thing that still hasn’t been settled: Zoom etiquette — specifically whether or not to use the camera feature while in remote classes.

According to the video conferencing etiquette section on the university website, the university recommends that students mute and turn off their video during class. Journalism school faculty were advised by Academic Outreach at the beginning of this semester to avoid making definitive rules about video for remote classes, but it’s ultimately each faculty member’s decision whether or not to require students to turn their

camera on for the duration of their class.

“(One of my friends) turned his (camera) off in the middle of class once to take his sweatshirt off, and the professor immediately messaged him asking him to turn his camera back on,” junior accounting major Seth Gerus said.

Gerus has to have his camera on for his accountancy practicum class, and he not only likes the rule, he also understands why his professor requires it.

“I like it because I get to see my classmates,” Gerus said. “The class relies on a lot of discussion and group work, so being on camera keeps people’s attention.”

Freshman international studies major Caroline Potts said that she’s in a class that not only requires her camera to be on, but her microphone be unmuted as well. She said that while it’s beneficial to have both on — it forces her to pay attention — she finds it difficult to control her surroundings in



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

her Martin Hall dorm room.

“As a freshman living in the dorms, it is somewhat difficult to control the noise that goes on around me,” Potts said. “I normally sit through class in the Martin 11th floor study room.”

Todd Smitherman, an associate professor of psychology, also

asks his students to turn their cameras in class. While he doesn’t explicitly state that students are required to do so in the syllabus, Smitherman encourages his students to turn their cameras on to enhance their participation.

“I find it very difficult to engage with students if I can’t see

any of them, and I can’t be sure that they’re actually paying attention to what I’m saying,” Smitherman said. “They get points in my course for class participation and obviously, if they had their cameras off, participation is more limited.”

Carrie Smith, an assistant professor of psychology, requires student’s cameras to be turned on in her psychology of gender class, which is more discussion-based. Smith has it explicitly written in her syllabus that students should have their cameras on so they can be more invested in the discussion.

“I tried to explain why I have the policy, it’s not just because I’m the professor and I say so. That’s weird and draconian,” Smith said. “For me, it’s (about) discussion, and I think a lot of people just hearing them without seeing them, can lead to a lot of misunderstandings and confusion about what you’re talking about.”

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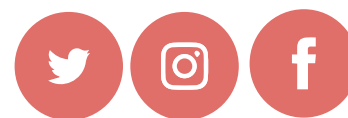
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Rebels still on for rival matchup

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Almost every Ole Miss sport underwent cancellations or postponements this week due to winter weather conditions. Despite the LSU game — originally scheduled for Feb. 18 — being postponed, the Rebels will still prepare to take on the Mississippi State Bulldogs in a Saturday match-up.

The Rebels are on a four-game winning streak after their previous victory over the South Carolina Gamecocks (81-74). The team's current overall record sits at 12-8 and 7-6 in the SEC, and Ole Miss landed at No. 6 in current SEC rankings. The Rebels have won eight games at home with three losses and have also won four games away.

Meanwhile, Mississippi State sits at an 11-11 overall record and a 5-8 record in the SEC. The Bulldogs rank at No. 11 in the current SEC standings and are on a two-game losing streak. With losses coming from LSU (94-80) and Vanderbilt (72-51), the Bulldogs added two more home defeats to their record for a total of five losses and eight wins.

In the Bulldogs' previous match-up against the

Vanderbilt Commodores, team leader Iverson Molinar put up a total of 19 points, six rebounds and two steals. Iverson has 321 points, 55 assists and 21 steals on the season. Another leader for the Bulldogs is redshirt sophomore D.J. Stewart Jr.. The Mississippi native leads the Bulldogs in scoring with 367 and has 68 rebounds and 56 assists. Stewart Jr. put up nine points against the Commodores.

For the Rebels, reigning Co-SEC Player of the Week Devontae Shuler leads the Rebels with 325 points and 71 assists on the season. The guard also has 63 rebounds. During the South Carolina game, Shuler put up a career-high of 31 points and had seven rebounds, four assists, and two blocks and steals each.

Forward Romello White falls behind Shuler in points with 220 on the season. The forward also has 110 rebounds, 22 assists and 23 blocks. To round up the leading trio is junior Jarkel Joiner, who totals 219 points on the season with 48 rebounds, 25 assists and 25 steals.

Last season, the Rebels beat the Bulldogs during the Feb. 11 game 83-58 as alumni Breein Tyree scored a total of 40 points to set the Rebels



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss forward KJ Buffen blocks a layup against Mississippi State in 2019.

on top. However, during the March 7 game in Starkville, the Bulldogs redeemed themselves with a 69-44 win over the Rebels to round out the regular season.

Tipoff against the Bulldogs is set for 5 p.m. on Saturday in Oxford at the Pavilion. The game will air on the SEC Network.



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Following wins against Missouri on Feb. 10, and South Carolina on Feb. 13, Ole Miss men's basketball is set to face Mississippi State on Feb. 20.

COLUMN

Does UM have a shot to dance its way into March?

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Last month, the Rebels fell to Florida, losing the third of their first four conference competitions, and I dissected what was going wrong for head coach Kermit Davis's third-year basketball team. I was frustrated; you were frustrated; we all were frustrated, and it was justified. However, right when we all almost sold out on the season, the team reeled us right back in.

The Ole Miss basketball team is hot, winning its last four games, two of which were back-to-back home wins against top-11 SEC opponents. With those wins, instead of harping on what's wrong, let's talk about what's going right with the team and the Kermit system. If you remember the column I wrote a month ago, this list will sound familiar.

Shot selection, shot selection, shot selection:

The Rebels finally found their shooting identity. They know they are not toward the top in conference shooting, whether it's beyond the arc or from free throw land, and that's okay. In fact, they know they don't need to shoot



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Romello White attempts to stop a Mizzou player from scoring on Feb 10. The Rebels won 80-59.

lights out in order to win.

The Kermit system relies on

transition buckets and offensive schemes that primarily look for

the lay-in. The team still isn't fantastic at shooting the rock, but when the Kermit system is working, they don't necessarily need to be. If the Rebels are shooting well, like in the game against Missouri, it's the icing on the cake.

Knees bent, butt down and play defense:

Back in January, I wrote: "The Kermit system hinges on getting down and playing defense that is fierce, stout and forced turnovers." Now, that's exactly what they are doing. Take the overtime win against Auburn on Feb. 6, for example. With grit, the team was tied late in the game and needed some momentum. In a series of events, the team played defense and forced a turnover that led to a quick transition lay-up.

In the very next series, the defense forced another turnover as junior guard Jarkel Joiner dribbled the ball down the floor and shot a quick 6-footer that swished into the basket. Those are exactly the kind of points on which Davis has built his teams to capitalize.

The team is one of the top in the conference in forcing turnovers, and this has made watching them play defense one of the

more fun aspects to watch.

Shuler or Joiner — whose team is it?

I raised the point that there was an identity crisis as to who gets the last say with the rock: Shuler or Joiner. Well, Ole Miss figured that out, too. Shuler might have gotten the spotlight against Auburn, but in the very next game against Missouri, Joiner was the go-to guy. Both guards have figured out their give and take.

Not only are they sharing the ball more, proving to be unselfish and playing to each other's advantages, but I also raised the point that at the end of the day, maybe the answer was neither of them. Maybe the offense should revolve around forward Romello White.

Against Auburn, White went off with a 30-point, 10-rebound game. He's finally figuring out how to be the dominant force he's meant to be in the paint.

Just like the basketball team's offensive scheme, as fans, it takes patience for the Kermit system to develop. Once it does like it is currently doing now, hang tight because the Rebels could keep dancing their way right into March.

Track and field moves up in rankings

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The Ole Miss men’s and women’s track and field teams moved up one spot in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) rankings on Monday. The Rebel men now stand at No. 7, while the women sit at No. 19. The new rankings come after the Rebels had stellar performances at the Music City Challenge in Nashville, Tenn., over the weekend with a new broken record and high ranking performances.

The men’s No. 7 ranking marks the third consecutive top-10 seeded rank. During Week Two, the men ranked at No. 6, which set the program record for both the men’s and women’s cross country programs. In addition, this marks the 33rd appearance for the men since 2008.

Leaders for the Rebel men include running distance medley, Waleed Suliman, Baylor Franklin, Mario Garcia Romo and Everett Smulders, as they ran the third-best time in NCAA history and the second-best time in program history on Jan. 29 at the Razorback Invite. The time of 9:30.62 led to 18.60

points in the rating index.

During the Music City Challenge, all four runners broke the four-minute time mark with Suliman breaking his own school record with a time of 3:55.60. This marks his third career time below the four-minute mark, and his time currently ranks fourth nationally. Following behind his lead was Garcia Romo with a sub-four time of 3:56.46, which beats his previous personal record by seven seconds.

With Garcia Romo ranking fifth nationally for his mile, Smulders earned a 3:58.73 time and put the Georgia-native at No. 17 in the NCAA. Behind Smulders, came Franklin with a sub-four time of 3:59.12, setting him at No. 21 in the NCAA.

The men are also receiving points from the 800-meter event with Franklin earning a time of 1:48.59, Smulders earning a time of 1:48.75 and distance runner John Rivera Jr. earning a time of 1:49.09. In addition to the 800-meter, the Rebels are receiving points from 5K times and from within the field.

Meanwhile, the Rebel women broke records of their own. Senior distance runner Anna Elkin clocked a 19-second per-



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS/ OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Following the Music City Challenge in Nashville, Ole Miss men’s track and field is ranked No. 7, while the women’s team is ranked No. 19.

sonal record in the women’s 3K with a time of 9:17.19, taking down the previous record set by Shelby Brown in 2017.

Distance runners are also clocking in times for the rating index. Distance runner Sintayehu Vissa became the fourth Rebel in as many meets to break the program record in the mile event with a time

of 4:40.99, and he also ran the fastest 800-meter since 2017 two weeks ago with a time of 2:06.45.

There are also two women’s ranked pole vaulters and ranked team members in the sprinting events.

Ole Miss will now prepare for the SEC Indoor Championships on Feb. 25-27 at Arkansas.

SOFTBALL

Rebels head to FAU

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Ole Miss softball will participate in the Florida Atlantic University Strike Out Cancer Tournament this weekend from Feb. 19-21 after going 2-2 during their spring season debut. The Rebels clutched a pair of wins against the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers and the Belmont Bruins in the Trojan Classic last weekend with two losses against the Troy Trojans and one loss against the Blazers.

The Rebels are set to play teams such as Iowa State and FAU at the tournament with the first game against Iowa State on Friday, Feb. 19. The game against the Cyclones will be a reunion for Ole Miss’s new head coach Jamie Trachsel, who served as head coach for the Cyclones in 2017.

While the Rebels hold a current 2-2 overall record, the Cyclones have a 5-0 overall record while the FAU Owls have a 1-3. The Cyclones beat teams such as South Dakota State, Northern Iowa, Butler, Omaha and Drake at the Doc Halverson Uni Dome Tournament in Cedar Falls, Iowa, last weekend. In addition, the Cyclones will bring back their entire young pitching staff that had a combined earned run average of 3.18 last season.

In Ole Miss softball’s last match against the Cyclones in February 2015, the Rebels defeated Iowa State in six innings with a score of 13-5.

Meanwhile, the FAU Owls played in the Fildsburg Invitational against Florida International University and Winthrop last weekend, losing three and winning one of the games. Leaders for the Owls include senior pitcher Kara Lokeinsky, catcher Kaitlyn Burke and outfielders Gretchen Ebert and Fayth Davis.

The last time Ole Miss played against FAU was in February of 2010 when the Rebels fell 2-0 to the Owls after giving up two early runs.

One leader for the Rebels this season is senior Jessica Puk, as she became the first Rebel to drive in eight runs in the team’s first three games since 2010. The Iowa native posted a .385 average with a 1.154 slugging percentage over the weekend. Puk also led or tied in the SEC with eight runs batted in, 15 total bases and three home runs, which ranks second in the league.

In addition to Puk, junior outfielder Tate Whitley leads the Rebels with a .500 batting average and had a pair of hits in three of the four games.

The first match of this weekend’s tournament is set to start at 10 a.m. in Boca Raton, Fla., on Friday, Feb. 19 versus Iowa State. The next match of the day will be at 12:30 p.m. against FAU.

COLUMN

The road to Omaha in 2021

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My prediction: Ole Miss baseball is going to go really far this year.

It is hard for me to imagine what it would feel like to be able to see a Rebel championship win happen during my time here at Ole Miss. I tend to be optimistic about all of Ole Miss’s sports, but the baseball team gives me reason to do so.

The Rebels closed out the 2020 season ranked fifth nationally. The team also led the nation in home runs with 35 through 17 games. The Rebels continued to show dominance when they finished No. 3 in slugging percentage, No. 3 in runs scored per game, No. 5 total runs scored and No. 7 in walks drawn. The Ole Miss mound also finished with a team earned run average of 2.92.

The Rebels had one of the most impressive starts to a season in program history. Despite losing their season



FILE PHOTO: REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Peyton Chatangier tags out a Memphis player last season. The Rebels beat Memphis 8-1.

opener against No. 1 Louisville, Ole Miss went on to win 16 in a row. This landed them multiple preseason awards and Baseball America placed them at No. 4 in preseason rankings.

There are so many people who will be excited for their teams to be brought back out and to see them play. It has been almost a full year since they were able to see the Rebels in action.

“Players, coaches and fans, I know, are excited to put the uniforms back on and get started again,” head coach Mike Bianco said in a press conference. “We’re very fortunate — the players, the coaches — to be part of a university, an athletic department and a

community that really cares about baseball.”

This year, Ole Miss is an older team that will be returning with a lot of leadership. Of the nine starters last season, seven will return. The team said goodbye to both Anthony Servideo and Tyler Keenan after the two were drafted into the MLB over the summer. While they left very big shoes to fill, there are others who will be able to step into them.

While these unprecedented times make things difficult, season ticket holders have done an incredible job of making sure that all of the season tickets would be sold out. Fans showed their loyalty, breaking the 2017 record for most ticket

sales.

“We broke a season ticket record today, but I’m very privileged to announce today that 7,101 season tickets have been sold,” Bianco said. “Which breaks 2017’s record (6,275) by almost 900 tickets—not a reserved seat left in the stadium.”

Although Ole Miss will have a tough schedule ahead of them, I believe they will have a fantastic season. Many of these players are itching to get to playing again after their shortened season in 2020. With the strength of the bullpen and the incredible coaching staff, the Rebels will be able to go far in 2021.

Baseball is back as Rebels prepare for season

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Ole Miss baseball's opening day is less than a week away and there is a lot to be excited about, as the team prepares for its debut at the State Farm College Baseball Showdown on Feb. 20-22.

The Rebels will be returning seven of the nine starters from last year after losing two to the MLB draft in June. Over the past few years, the Rebels have gained national attention and asserted themselves as a powerhouse not only in the SEC but nationwide. They have made 16 regionals appearances in 19 years under head coach Mike Bianco.

During the off-season, Ole Miss gave Bianco a four-year contract extension. The expectations are still very high for this team, and this year will be no different. After the season was cut short last year, players are itching to get back.

"My expectation is to play well, especially for an older group," Bianco said in a press conference. "That's always your hope for opening weekend, but we expect it from this older group — that we come out and are mature and aggressive and that we go and play that way offensively, defensively and on the mound. There are 300 people who are having press conferences across the country talking about Omaha and talking about having success, and I think that's what's neat about the start of the season."

Ole Miss ranked as high as



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Above: Greer Holston pitches at Ole Miss Baseball Scrimmage on Sept. 19, 2020.

Right: With opening day less than a week away for Ole Miss Baseball, expectations are high for this year's season as they have been ranked as high as No. 4 in preseason polls.

No.4 in preseason polls, setting the expectation that they are capable of taking this season far. The team is an older group that has continued to recruit well to bring in talent. Last week, the Rebels were also predicted to win the SEC



FILE PHOTO : REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

West in the league's preseason coaches poll.

In addition to the preseason polls, there are a few

players who will be back to hopefully make a difference. Senior third baseman Tim Elko and sophomore Hayden

Dunhurst are stand-out players who both received the Second Team All-SEC preseason team.

Elko hit a .354 last season and started in 12 of the 17 games. He was named Rebel captain after totaling four doubles, a triple and three home runs in the season. He also had 15 runs batted in with 12 total runs scored.

Dunhurst, the sophomore catcher, was named an All-American after he hit a .269 with five home runs in his freshman season. He allowed the second-fewest stolen bases in the SEC with five.

This season will be long full of highs and lows, and the Rebels will play a full SEC schedule with other teams sprinkled throughout the season. Some of the most telling games will be against Arkansas, Mississippi State and the upcoming opening weekend.

"Usually, older groups play better, they're more experienced," Bianco said. "One of the reasons for that, our game is tough. There are a lot of ups and downs. It's a long season, a lot of games. There are going to be times where we don't play to our expectations. Usually, older teams can handle that. Younger teams seem to wallow in those lows longer. Older teams seem to handle the adversity much better, and I think this group will do that as well."

Ole Miss opens its season in Arlington, Texas, at the State Farm College Baseball Showdown, Feb. 20-22 at 3 p.m.

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OPINION

The university needs to find its sense of shame

JOHN HYDRISKO
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We tend to confuse embarrassment and shame. We might say that embarrassment is a shallower or lighter version of shame, yet we still think of them as two words for the same thing. But if we are to be precise, embarrassment and shame are distinct from one another.

Embarrassed is how we feel when we act out of character or deviate from an internal expectation of ourselves. What is embarrassing for one person might not be embarrassing for someone else. I feel embarrassed when I trip in public, but you might feel unembarrassed when you do the same.

Ashamed is how we feel when we act in poor character, when we deviate from a more universal standard. What is shameful for someone should be shameful for everyone. We all should feel ashamed when we lie, cheat or steal.

There are times when a university might be embar-

rassed. This past football season, the University of Mississippi unwittingly featured a pornographic actor dressed in a doctor's coat on a souvenir cup honoring the state's "healthcare heroes." This gaff was, quite obviously, a deviation from the administration's internal expectation about itself. It responded to this embarrassment by mitigating any further damage to its reputation, by never acknowledging the event and by letting the whole fiasco fade into memory. This course of action was, more or less, an appropriate response to the event.

Then, there are times when a university should be ashamed. For years, officials have publicly condemned racism while privately coddling racist alumni. For months, officials mishandled — by their own admission — a secret investigation into the now-infamous photograph of armed students posing in front of the sign marking the place where Emmett Till's body was found.

For weeks, officials have ignored widespread demands

for a proper explanation of the dismissal of Garrett Felber. It should be obvious that Felber was not fired because he won an unauthorized grant for his department. Instead, he was fired because he gave cause for administrators to feel embarrassed again and again and again. If only his bosses had felt not embarrassed but ashamed.

Taken together, these cases point to a wider pattern of how the UM administration fails to handle the tragedies, crises and scandals which be-leaguer our community. In each instance — a glimpse of a culture-marked bigotry and nepotism, a potential hate crime, another chapter in our school's long history of repressing anti-racist speech — the Lyceum has responded with damage control, radio silence and an enduring faith in the shortness of our own attention spans. As a result, the university's response to almost distributing thousands of plastic cups graced by the likeness of an adult film star and the university's response

to gravely abusing people are virtually indistinguishable.

All this is to say that the University of Mississippi confuses embarrassment and shame on what seems an hourly basis. The school seeks to avoid embarrassment, instead of sitting with its shame. Instead of dealing with the consequences of its actions, the University of Mississippi attempts to manage the perceptions of its actions. Instead of safeguarding our community, those within the Lyceum and those close to it obsess over enrollment rates and property values and tax revenues.

No one cares if the Univer-

sity of Mississippi is embarrassed, feels out of character or acts clumsily from time to time. We all should care, however, that the university finds its good character, acts decently and makes real efforts to exemplify a good school. We all would be better off if the University of Mississippi found its sense of shame for once.

John Hydrisko is a senior English, philosophy and history major from Philadelphia, Penn.

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STORM

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1 p.m. on Monday. The group message garnered over 3,500 members by Monday afternoon.

“We’re trying to make this snowball fight the biggest ever in Mississippi,” read one message from the group owner, who declined to comment.

Of the hundreds of students who attended the snowball fight, few were following city and university COVID guidelines. According to UM’s guidelines for events, there is a 10-person limit indoors and 25 participants outdoors. The university also asks that attendees wear masks, use social distancing and limit physical contact.

Despite the excitement around an organized snowball fight, many of the students present were not throwing snowballs. The atmosphere in the Grove felt similar to that of tailgating at a home football game. One member played music from a speaker for the crowd, which congregated into a circle near the Walk of Champions entrance. Students were dancing, cheering and, at one point, crowdsurfing. Some students were seen drinking alcohol.

“We figured there would be a lot of people there,” said one student, who asked to be anonymous due to legal action against students present at the stadium. “It’s a fun thing to do since we didn’t get tailgating (in the fall).”

Around 1:45 p.m., after the crowd migrated to the Grove stage, students began chanting “Rush the Vaught!” and frantically dashed for Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. While many seemed nervous to jump over the fence, several students made it over a wall between gates 15-25 and into the stadium.

“We got about 35-40 people inside, and then we went right and climbed out the fence on the other side,” said another student who successfully got into the stadium.

Students were still inside the stadium when University Police Department arrived to break up the crowd around 1:55 p.m. A video circulating on social media shows one UPD vehicle driving toward the crowd on icy roads to scatter crowd members. UPD could not be reached for comment about if this decision was protocol or why the officer drove toward the crowd.

“The sirens came, and everybody literally fled like roaches,” one student, who was cited for trespassing, said. “I have the grand idea that I can make it. So I jumped down, and the police officer grabs this girl in front of me. Then two seconds later, he grabs me, and he swings us to the police car, and he’s like, ‘So what was the master plan? What are y’all doing?’”

At least two students were detained by UPD and cited for trespassing in Vaught-Hemingway. According to several students at the event, there was no “master plan.”

“So basically, there was no real rhyme or reason to why we did what we did. It was just being stupid,” she said.



WILL CORLEY / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

During the day, students emerge from the dorms in droves to enjoy the unusual weather, but at night most retreat to the warmth and safety of their rooms, leaving behind a barren winter tundra.

Hundreds of students stormed Vaught-Hemingway Stadium after a GroupMe invited thousands to a snowball fight in the Grove.

